

Published at 27 Fairfield Avenue,
Bridgeport, Conn.
THE FARMER PUBLISHING CO.
Entered in the Postoffice at Bridgeport,
Conn., as second class matter.

ISSUED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

DAILY EDITION:
One Year\$3.00
One Month35
One Week06
WEEKLY EDITION:
One Year in Advance.....\$1.00

New York Office, 220 Broadway, (St. Paul, Building)
C. A. MENET, Representative.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1909.

A QUESTION OF BONDING

The matter of bonding for improvements has for years been a moot question in this city. Almost annually, it comes to the front for discussion, with never a permanent decision. Just now, its fresh agitation is in connection with the project of a new High School building.

The affirmative argument upon the bonding question is, in substance, that if the proposed improvement is of a permanent character and likely to be in use for, say fifty years, it is unjust to compel the present generation to pay the entire cost; that the succeeding generation which will equally benefit by the improvement, should pay its fair share of the cost, and that this just object can only be accomplished by the issuance of bonds, a proportionate number maturing each year or the whole being provided for by a sinking fund with an annual increase obligatory. In confirmation of this argument, the instances of bond issues for City Hall reconstruction, bridge construction, etc., are cited.

The argument upon the negative side is, in substance, that each generation must meet and solve costly problems that arise given improvement, though seemingly permanent at first, may prove temporary, even during the current generation; that it is radically unjust to posterity to saddle it with heavy indebtedness and that each generation should pay for all improvements made in its time by taxing itself.

The Farmer is strongly inclined to believe that public sentiment favors bonding for really permanent improvements. Certainly, at the present time when industry is in a somewhat depressed condition, a heavily increased tax rate would be a grievous burden upon very many home-owners. This fact should not be overlooked. In fact, in our opinion, it should be conclusive.

In the current number of the "Connecticut Churchman," organ of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Connecticut, there appears an article by Rev. Dr. F. W. Harriman of Windsor, secretary of the diocese, advocating a division of the diocese upon the ground that the Bishop "is in danger of overwork." It appears that Connecticut "is the fourth diocese in the United States in parishes, clergy, communicants and congregations to be visited." Dr. Harriman mentions the Connecticut River as "the only natural territorial boundary," but suggests that as "more than half of our self-supporting and well equipped parishes" are in Fairfield and New Haven counties, it might be well to constitute them a diocese, with perhaps Litchfield county, or a part of it, added because of convenience of communication with Bridgeport and New Haven. Dr. Harriman further suggests that if the matter is to be placed before the General convention in October, 1910, preliminary action should be taken at the Diocesan Convention in June next. In discussing Dr. Harriman's article, the Churchman says "the author is alone responsible." Bishop Brewster not having seen it.

Somewhat contrary to expectation, the special House committee, appointed to consider the question of repealing or reducing the tariff duties on wood pulp and news paper and which has made a very thorough investigation, will report, it is now understood, in favor of a considerable reduction in the duty on news paper, and repeal of the duty on wood pulp. The Ways and Means committee which is engaged in tariff revision, may or may not give effect to the recommendations of this special committee, but the latter report to the House and not to the Ways and Means committee, which fact may better the chances of the special report.

Newspaper publishers, having been long oppressed by overhigh prices, will welcome relief. It has for some time been a question with them, whether they should not increase their prices, there being no profit, and often a loss, in one-cent papers.

Porto Rico desires the imposition of an import duty of five cents a pound on coffee. It is also advocated by Hawaiians. The supporting argument is that Rawl and Porto Rico can, with protection, produce about one-third of the amount needed for consumption in this country, and that the Philippines can, under suitable encouragement, supply more than the remaining two-thirds. It would require several years time to place coffee culture upon the footing necessary to supply our entire demand, particularly in the Philippines; during that period, American consumers would be compelled to pay five cents more a pound for coffee, and quite probably we should then be told that only by continuance of the duty could be permanence of coffee culture be continued.

ed. Such is the history of most "infant industries."

It now appears that the sudden eruption of Senator Brandegee into our Bridgeport City Court contest, was not spontaneous but invited. Sheriff Hawley wired him, probably a "Macedonian cry for help." In reply Brandegee wired a virtual command to the members of the Judiciary committee to suspend action until informed of his wishes in the matter. And so we have Senator Brandegee of New London, and Sheriff Hawley of Brookfield, neither one a member of the General Assembly, interfering in a Bridgeport contest which unfortunately, and in our belief wrongly, is before the General Assembly for decision.

Should this country aid Liberia through its troubles, is a pending question. Booker Washington declares it to be an American colony and, as such to be aided as a matter of duty. It is true that Liberia was originally colonized with American negroes, and that this country has at times taken a quasi paternal interest in its fortunes, but the view that we are thereby bound to settle its present troubles, is evidently unfounded. The "black republic" was never a success; its citizens have not at any time shown evidence of capacity for self-government. And surely this country should have in the future sufficient troubles with Asian affairs, without taking on any new complications in African questions.

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Town Talk—Movements of Folks—Current Events—The Chinese Empire—Africa—Female Suffrage—Forestry—Direful Prospects.

It is now noised abroad that not more than five new hands will be employed in the large new addition to the Aluminum foundry, which is approaching completion.

There is a rumor that two or three new houses will be erected in the center of town. One of these will be Mr. Boyle's fire proof garage. He must have some place to store his two automobiles.

It is expected that the Greenfield Grange will meet this evening in its comfortable hall on Greenfield Hill.

If Mrs. Frank Girard really has a husband and six children, and nothing to eat, the selectmen will naturally send her a bag of flour some coal and her husband to work upon the roads.

A ball of the truckmen to-morrow evening is known as the semi-annual dance. The Home Made Bakery which is getting a good reputation as a caterer will furnish the refreshments.

The new town is to be called the Fairfield Public Market. Who now says that electric lights will not be forthcoming?

Unclean streets are to have names tacked to them. This is a good move and shows that the town is progressing.

But one free lecture having been delivered in Southport, thus far, it is encouraging to learn that they are becoming more and more popular. The town was really hungry for something intellectual.

Since the snow disappeared and the bare ground came into sight, it is discovered that several farmers have already done their spring plowing. They took time by the forelock and plowed last fall.

Little Thorbold Larsen recently won the first prize for pinning a tail on a donkey. He deserves a Carnegie medal for his feat of dishonesty. How the tail got off the donkey does not appear.

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Whalen of Greenfield spent Sunday in town with his sister.

Mr. James Bergin is in town visiting his mother.

The event of yesterday afternoon was the assembling of the members of the Unquowa club at the library to listen to Mrs. Mitchell's talk on current events. There was a very good attendance, and the interest was manifested in some of the topics presented.

Mrs. Mitchell was fresh from the Federated luncheon at the Stratfield, which she had just given. She began by reading a little poem which closed as follows:

"I've seen a lot of winter and I aren't froze yet."

She first spoke of the effort of the city of San Francisco is making to get control of the Hetch Hetchy valley, not far from the Yosemite falls, for the purpose of supplying the city with water. There is opposition to this on the ground that to shut off the water will destroy the beautiful waterfalls. Secretary Garfield, who is lacking in a sense of the beautiful and sublime, approves of the proposition.

Mr. Josiah Miller has recently written in one of the magazines an article descriptive of this valley.

Mrs. Mitchell recently met at a dinner party an American missionary woman who has recently returned from China, and she piled her with questions about the late empress, to ascertain if she was the real good old lady some people contend and learned that the half has not been told about the charms and kindly ways of the "dreadful one." Her history as it has flowed across the Pacific to us is true, and all the news we get from China is largely reliable. So much is mere newspaper talk nowadays, said Mrs. Mitchell, she was glad to learn that Chinese news is so reliable.

On facts. It seems Mrs. Conger, wife of the American Minister at the time of the boxer uprising, has written a book about China which will be published. From China to the Emmanuel movement in Boston is a far cry, but Mrs. Mitchell says the movement is spreading and that three churches in New York have opened clinics the latest being Dr. Percy Grant's Church of the Ascension on lower Fifth avenue. The next topic was Prince Albert of Belgium, who to become the future ruler of that little kingdom. He was described as a bright, progressive young man, who is going to the Congo country himself to learn if all the stories about the natives are true or not. Leopold, the young man's uncle, was spoken of as one of the most enlightened monarchs of the earth with the possible exception of the Sultan of Turkey. When we think of Africa, said Mrs. Mitchell, we think of no particular country. But the continent is to have a wonderful development, and even now railroads are being constructed and steamship lines decided upon. The three potential factors needed in the development of the country are honest statesmen, honest traders, and honest and conscientious missionaries. In many instances missionaries cannot go first, as they would be in danger of being carved up. This country has no territorial interest in the land, but it should help Liberia, and we ought to have large commercial relations with Africa and be largely responsible for the future of that country by reason of the slavery which once existed here and the vast number of Africans there are in the

United States. Germany in Africa was mentioned and the speaker said Germany must have some place from which to get raw material; she must feed herself. There are splendid forests in that country, cattle can be raised, and the land is full of iron and copper. The natives are not as lazy as they have been reputed. At least 100,000 are now working on their own land and 60,000 are building railroads.

Mrs. Mitchell hoped the Census bill would be defeated. There will be a great saving of time and money if it is. The necessity for the restraint of speech on the part of men in the Senate was alluded to and the remark made that women were not the only persons who needed such restraint. It is wise to have a rule to prevent Senators from speaking offensively. The development of the stage was the next topic, and Mrs. Mitchell was of the opinion that women should refuse to patronize immoral plays. Although many of the managers are Hebrews, Rabbi Wise says they are heathen. Mr. Frohman contends that there are but a few bad plays on the stage in New York, and he has recently given a list of the good ones. Plainfield, N. J., has a censor of plays, and Passaic and Newark have censors of bill boards. Many good laws are being enacted in New Jersey. Mrs. Mitchell was astounded to learn that Prof. Phelps of Yale thinks there is a great moral lesson in the play called "The Eastward Way."

Reference was made to the Congress of Suffragists which is to meet in London in April, when 21 nations will be represented and all languages will be spoken. And that New York suffragists will charter a whole train of cars when they make their descent upon Albany. Last year they had but one car. And they have rented the whole of one of the big dining rooms in an Albany hotel. Many authors have come out in favor of female suffrage, and it was intimated that a prominent Fairfield has recently joined the ranks. The women are fast climbing into the band wagon on are fast climbing into the band wagon with the enthusiastic. Some names is to be sent to Washington. Cardinal Gibbons is against suffrage and takes the Old Testament view that a woman should be a dutiful wife and the faithful mother. Some one has said that women show a lack of judgment since they wear such high hats and low cut shoes and therefore may not be able to handle the pen and the pulpit. Suffrage is gaining all the time in New York and spreading in New Jersey. In London women are forbidden to come within a mile of the Parliament building. And yet, two-thirds of the members of the House of Commons are in favor of female suffrage. Premier Asquith will listen to them when it can be proved that the majority of English women want suffrage. The last topic which engaged the attention of the ladies was forestry. It is plain that the Department of Agriculture and Mr. Pinchot, who succeeded in frightening the country about deforestation, and the long list of dreadful ills which will follow when trees are cut down, and the rivers wash all the silt into the sea and the government has to dredge it out. Even now it takes 15 acres of woodland, or the trees on that much land, to get out one ton of a yellow newspaper. "Our Wasteful Nation" is a book which should be in every library. If the forests are destroyed, the nation will be a calamity. All sorts of telephone and telegraph poles will be higher. Even now cooks have to use glass rolling pins, and they are little use. Roosevelt has set aside twenty million acres. Most of our head wood is already gone. The modern saws devour 40 square miles of wood in one day. And the railroads use 100 million ties each year. Much was said on this subject, and it was argued that the Philippines will be of great value to us by reason of the magnificent wood found there.

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Origin of the Word "Mustard." Our English word "mustard" is traceable to the French "moutarde," the origin of which is curiously given. In 1382 Philip the Bold, duke of Burgundy, granted to the town of Dijon the privilege of bearing his armorial ensigns, with the motto "Moult me tarde" ("I wish ardently"), in return for a handsome contingent of a thousand men furnished to him at his expense. Pleased with the royal concession, the authorities ordered the device to be affixed over the principal gates of the city. Time or accident at length obliterated the middle word, and the two remaining, moult and tarde, were printed on the labels which the merchants of Dijon pasted on pots in which they sent this commodity all over the world.

The Word "Wallop." The origin of the familiar vernacular verb "to wallop" is not generally known. It comes from the family name of the earls of Portsmouth, Sir John Wallop, K. G., was admiral commander in the reign of King Henry VIII. of the fleet which engaged French raids by burning French ships and twenty-one French villages. This was called, in the current parlance of the times, "walloping" them, and the phrase passed into the language and still survives.

A Convenient Topic. "I wonder what persuaded Mr. Biggles to believe in reincarnation?" "The fact," replied Miss Cayenne, "that so few people know anything about it. It enables him to have the conversation almost entirely to himself."—Washington Star.

A Man's Birthday. We do not know whence a man comes nor whether he goes, yet we choose his birth or death day to celebrate his recurring century. We should choose his day of achievement.—London Saturday Review.

No Reason. Braidsen Tapes—Yes, I'm fired—discharged without any reason! Silksom Thred—Well, you didn't have any when you took the job, did you?—Syracuse Herald.

The Drawback. "The unlucky in love are said to be lucky at cards." "What good does it do 'em? They can't get out nights to play."—Exchange.

The Poor Woman. "He climbed about to the top of the ladder—and then fell off." "What was the trouble?" "There was a woman at the bottom of it."—Life.

Liberty cannot be established without morality nor morality without faith.—Greely.

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